

REMARKS:

The status of the claims is as follows:

a. Claims 1-19 of U.S. Patent No. 5,975,892, with claim 10 amended per the Amendment of 02 November 2001, are active.

b. Claims 20-42 added by the Amendment of 02 November 2001 are active.

c. Claims 43-51 added by the present Amendment are active.
No claims have been canceled.

The newly added claim 43 is an independent claim and the newly added claims 44-51 depend therefrom.

Claim 43 recites a method of operating a calcination plant for a particulate feed material which undergoes calcination above a predetermined temperature. The method comprises the following steps:

admitting the particulate feed material into a calcination zone;

maintaining at least the major part of the calcination zone at temperatures equal to or greater than the predetermined calcination temperature for a time sufficient to calcine the particulate feed material and generate a solid calcined product mixed with gas;

separating the solid calcined product from the gas in a solid-gas separation zone; and

maintaining at least the major part of the solid-gas separation zone at temperatures equal to or greater than the predetermined calcination temperature during at least the major part of the separating step.

The step of admitting the particulate feed material into a calcination zone is supported by column 5, lines 11-17 of the

original patent.

An early Action in view of the foregoing is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that the only fee due is the enclosed additional claims fee. Please charge any unforeseen costs to our Deposit Account No. 02-2451.

An associate power of attorney is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

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